THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The flights on Delhi/Nagpur/Raipur and return sectors are operated in the evening with one of the incoming aircraft to Delhi. As a result, flight nos. CD-7469-7470 are hit by consequential delays.

(b) The On Time Performance of services operated by Indian Airlines including Alliance Air is closely monitored on day-to-day basis and efforts are made to minimize delays.

Extension of Facilities at Hyderabad Airport

1209. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to use Hyderabad as a terminal for Indian Airlines and other private Airlines;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Airports Authority of India has not explored the possiblity of extending facilities to Airline operators to use Hyderabad as a base; and

(c) the details of criteria adopted by the AAI to improve Airports around the country to what extent this criteria has not been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Indian Airlines have their maintenance facilities at the Airport and Central Training Establishment (CTE) adjoining the airport. There is no request from Indian Airlines or any other domestic airlines to set up their bases at Hyderabad.

(c) Upgradation of facilities at airports is a continuing process in keeping with the traffic and type of aircraft operation expected at the airport and avail ability of resources.

Guwahati Airport as Regional Hub for North-Eastern Region

1210. DR. SHRIMATI JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken to develop Guwahati Airport as the regional hub for the North-Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, by when this new arrangement is likely to be operationalised?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Development of regional hub depends upon the traffic and commercial viabilities of such operation from the airports as perceived by airline operators. Airports Authority of India is undertaking following works to upgrade Guwahati airport to international standards:—

(i) expansion of terminal building.

(ii) central air conditioning of arrival and departure halls.

(iii) strengthening of existing runway.

(iv) expansion of apron.

Non-Availability of Refuelling Ladder at Amritsar Airport

1211. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Amritsar Airport did not have the ladder required for refuelling Air Buses on 24th December, 1999;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to make all the airports self-sufficient in respect of such equipments to prevent delays?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Step ladders are not required for refuelling of aircraft. Refuelling of aircraft is done with the help of bowsers available with the Oil Companies.

International Airport at Agra

†1212. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project to develop the Airport at Air Force area at Agra into an International Airport was made;

(b) if so, the time-frame for completing the said project and project's status at present; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.